Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union

BCTGM News

May/
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Number 3

the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Building My UNION FOUNDATION

If there's one thing I could say that really shaped who I am today as a person, it would be growing up in a union family. My father, Walter Shelton, started working at Colonial Bakery in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1952. It was a tough job, working six days a week. It was a great union job with good pay and benefits to raise a family.

My father became the President of Local 25 in Chattanooga and four years later, he became the Business Agent. As the Business Agent, he traveled all over the Southeast visiting our union shops. From Chattanooga and Knoxville, Tennessee to Rome, Georgia and Huntsville, Alabama he visited all of the Local 25 shops, talking to union members.

My father believed that the most important job of a local union officer was providing service to the membership by going out and talking to the people every single day. As he walked through the plants, he would greet each worker by his or her name. Everyone knew who he was and I am certain he knew the name of most every member of Local 25 back then.

From my very earliest age, my father would take us to union meetings. Sometimes, we'd go on plant visits with him and sit in the break room while he talked to members or walked through the plant. He wanted us to understand what these hardworking people did for a living, the issues they faced and what his job was in trying to help them. These early experiences have helped shape the type of union leader I have become.

In 1973, there were only two bakeries in Chattanooga – Holsum Bakery and Colonial Bakery. At 18 years old, I went to work at the Holsum Bakery and later followed in my father's footsteps to Colonial Bakery and later as a Local 25 union officer.

My father was a member of the BCTGM for 62 years, so you could say the union has always been in my blood.

In the same spirit of my father, an honest and hardworking union man, I say to you that as your International Union President, I consider providing excellent service to our members as the highest priority of the BCTGM.

While we move forward on our organizing and member education goals, we remain deeply committed to keeping our roots grounded in servicing all of our members. If we're building this union together, we need to stay connected as a community of brothers and sisters.

For me, it is so important to cultivate a deep respect for the people who do the work; the people who produce the food in this country; our essential workforce; our members.

We can only achieve this by visiting shops, talking to the men and women who make up this great union, understanding the issues our members face daily in the plant, in their lives and in their communities.

It is building relationships with our members that is at the very core of being a good labor leader who loves and respects his people as I do.

Visiting plants, talking to members, understanding their concerns and acting upon them, and returning phone calls or emails, all of these are essential for our local leaders, our shop stewards, and our union activists.

I've been blessed in my career to work with some of the best union brothers and sisters, to have them as a team to help me get the job done for our members. I look forward to continuing that commitment as the great leaders who came before me did.

This union isn't just a job to me – it is my life.

— Anthony Shelton, BCTGM International President

BCTGM News

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REMEMBERING DAVID B. DURKEE

On May 8, the sign outside Lewis Bake Shop in Evansville, Indiana (below) paid tribute to our late International President David B. Durkee in honor of his memorial service.

David began his career in 1973 at Lewis Brothers Bakery when he became a union baker and member of Local 280.

President Durkee passed away March 30, 2020 after a long and valiant battle with cancer. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed his memorial service, and his Union family was eager to make their way to his hometown to celebrate his life and significant contributions to the labor movement.

"The family of David Durkee would like to thank our BCTGM family for their outpouring of love and kindness, not only over the past year, but during the memorial service on May 8. There are no words to truly express your caring hearts and lifelong friendship with David. He so loved his union, and he considered working for the membership a privilege. Godspeed in your continued efforts to protect social justice."

— *Sharon Durkee*

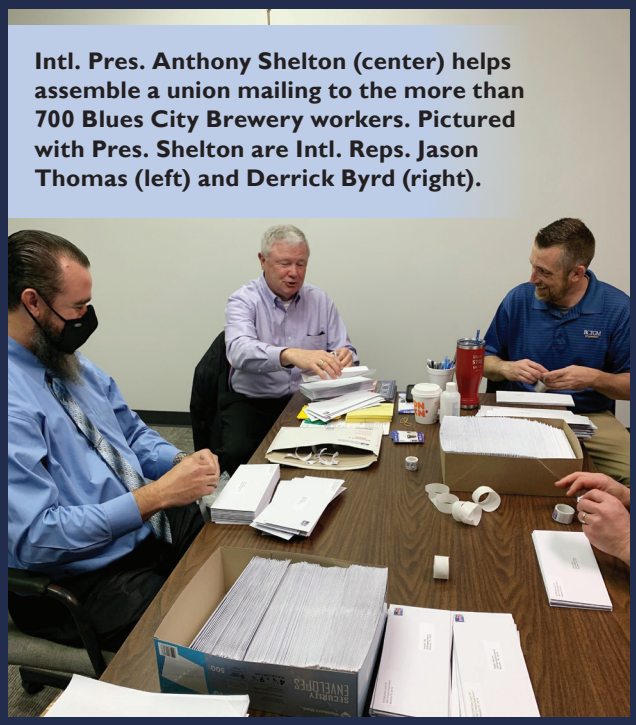
International Officers Visit

Breaking the oppression of workers in the workplace takes time and dedication.

Union organizers and BCTGM Local 149 (Memphis, Tenn.) have been an active presence outside the 1.3 million-square-foot Blues City Brewery since workers voted to join the BCTGM last December.

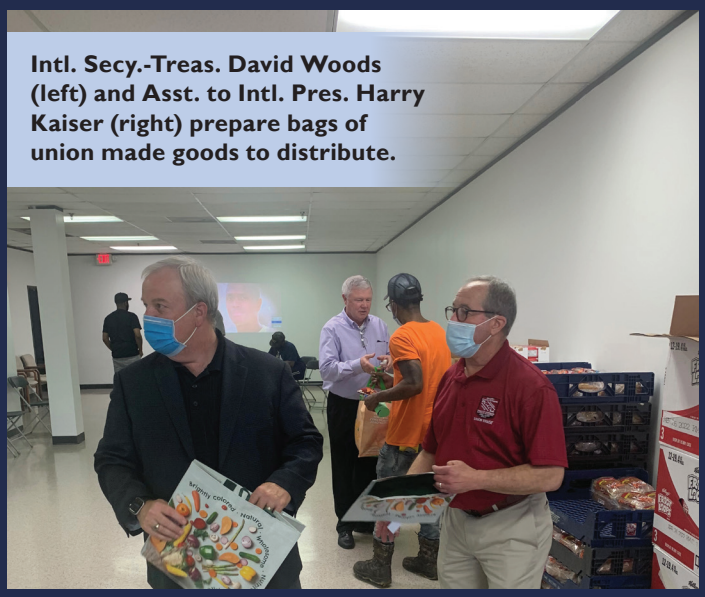
Most recently, BCTGM International President Anthony Shelton and International Secretary-Treasurer David Woods visited the Local 149 union office located across from the massive plant. Together with International Director of Organization John Price, the group met with workers to learn about the working conditions at the plant, answer questions and help them learn about their rights on the job.

From left to right are Intl. Secy.-Treas. David Woods, L. 149 member Jasmine White, L. 149 Pres. Letitia Malone and Intl. Pres. Anthony Shelton.



Intl. Pres. Anthony Shelton (center) helps assemble a union mailing to the more than 700 Blues City Brewery workers. Pictured with Pres. Shelton are Intl. Reps. Jason Thomas (left) and Derrick Byrd (right).

Blues City Brewery workers wait to receive their BCTGM Union I.D. card which are made for each individual at the union office.



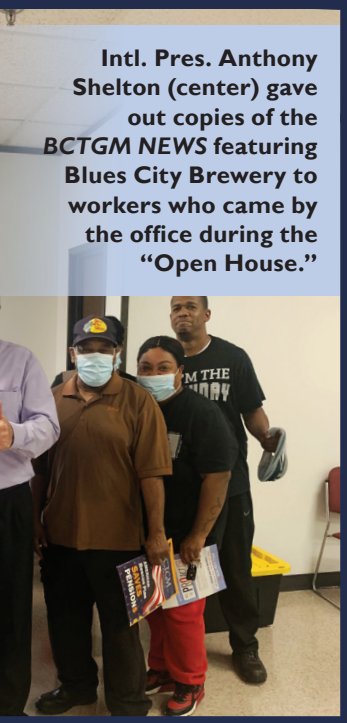
Intl. Secy.-Treas. David Woods (left) and Asst. to Intl. Pres. Harry Kaiser (right) prepare bags of union made goods to distribute.

Blues City Brewery Workers

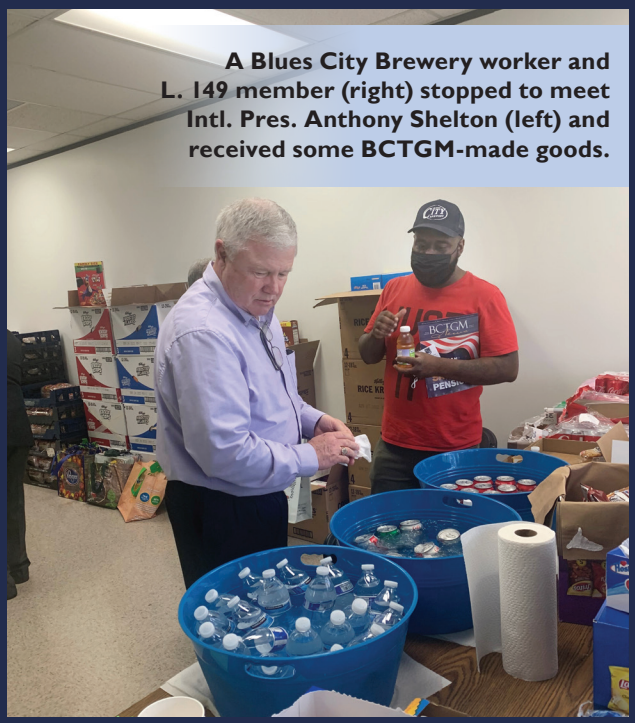
"Meeting the workers to help them understand their rights is our most important job right now as we negotiate their first union contract. We want them to know that we care and we will help protect their rights on the job," says International President Shelton.

Workers were invited to stop by the union hall before and after their shifts during to ask questions and meet the officers. Each worker was given a bag filled with BCTGM-made goods.

The victory at Blues City Brewery is one of the largest organizing wins in recent years. There are more than 700 workers employed at the plant with several hundred additional workers expected to join the workforce as the company plans to expand the facility.



Intl. Pres. Anthony Shelton (center) gave out copies of the *BCTGM NEWS* featuring Blues City Brewery to workers who came by the office during the "Open House."



A Blues City Brewery worker and L. 149 member (right) stopped to meet Intl. Pres. Anthony Shelton (left) and received some BCTGM-made goods.

Intl. Rep. Jason Thomas and L. 149 Pres. Letitia Malone sign in union members during the Blues City Brewery "Open House."

Inlt. Secy.-Treas. David Woods helps distribute union treats to the Blues City Local 149 members.

Preparing a mailing to the Blues City workers are (left, clockwise) Asst. to the Intl. Pres. Harry Kaiser, Intl. Dir. of Organization John Price, Intl. Rep Jason Thomas (left) and Intl. Rep. Derrick Byrd (right).

LOCAL 68 MEMBERS: The 'Secret Ingre

When Thomas' English Muffin bakery began baking in 1978, it brought good-paying bakery jobs to workers in the Frederick, Maryland area. For more than 40 years, BCTGM Local 68 (Baltimore, Md.) has proudly represented workers at the bakery where union members produce 1.7 million Original "Nooks & Crannies" English Muffin packages per week.

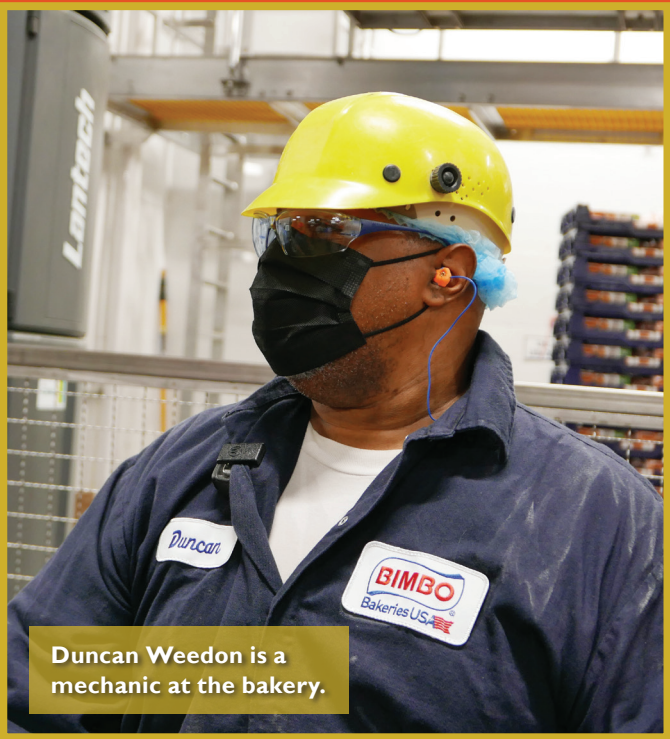
Thirty-eight years ago, Dave Gallahan left his job at the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and took a job at the Frederick bakery. Gallahan reflects on that fateful decision saying, "I never thought I'd stay working at the bakery. Now here I am and thanks to the American Rescue Plan, and my union, my pension is secure for when I am ready to finally retire," says the railroad enthusiast.

Jorge Juarez

Intl. Pres. Anthony Shelton (right) visits with L. 68 member Kelvin Goode (left) during his breaktime.

Joe Close, shop steward, is a checker and has worked at the Thomas' bakery for 9 years.

Dave Gallahan, a loader, has the highest seniority at the plant with 38 years.



Duncan Weedon is a mechanic at the bakery.

Jannelly Urbaez recently began to work at the bakery and says it is a "great job".

dient' to THOMAS' ENGLISH MUFFINS

Recently, BCTGM International President Anthony Shelton accompanied Local 68 Financial Secretary and GEB Member Gary Oskoian and Business Agent Rodney Lightfoot to the bakery for a tour and meeting with the union members. Oskoian began his union career as a member of the maintenance department at the bakery where he worked for 18 years before becoming the Local 68 Business Agent. He has served as an officer of Local 68 for 25 years. As he walks throughout the bakery, workers greet Oskoian with smiles and handshakes. "It's like coming home," he says.

Thomas' English Muffins from this bakery supply the entire East Coast from Maine to Florida. The plant operates four lines and employs 105 members of Local 68.

Pictured outside the Frederick, Md. bakery, (left to right), are L. 68 members Joe Close, Tom McCaw, Iris Miller (steward), Intl. Pres. Anthony Shelton, member Wes Shewbridge, L. 68 Fin. Secy. Gary Oskoian, Bus. Agt. Rodney Lightfoot and member Brian Ritenour.

Terry Clem, group leader, has 31 years at the bakery.

Brandin Breeden

Imani Fielder

Iris Miller, a PLA operator, has served as shop steward for 11 years and has worked at the bakery for nearly 14 years.

SNACKS/CHIPS

Frito-Lay, Inc., Rold Gold Pretzels
Canton, Ohio (Local 19)

UTZ Pretzels/The Bachman Company
Reading, Pa. (Local 6)

Frito-Lay
Topeka, Kan. (Local 218)
Vancouver, Wash. (Local 364)

Pirate Booty, Keystone Foods Products, Inc.
Easton, Pa. (Local 6)

Mikesell's Potato Chip Co.
Dayton, Ohio (Local 57)

Happy's Potato Chips/ Old Dutch Foods
St. Paul, Minn. (Local 22)

Hostess/Frito-Lay Potato Chips
Levis, Quebec (Local 480)

BREAD & ROLLS

Bimbo Bakeries U.S.A.: Bimbo, SB Thomas, Sara Lee, Nature's Harvest, Earthgrains, Freihofer, Colonial, Metz, Arnold, Brownberry, Oroweat, Ball Park, Marinela, Maier's, Beefsteak, D'Italiano, J.J. Nissen, Boboli, Mrs. Baird's, Heiner's, Tia Rosa (tortillas), Stroehmann

Canada Bread: Dempsters, Bens, Bon Matin

George Weston: Wonder, D'Italiano

Giant Foods & Safeway store brand buns & rolls

Boudin Bakeries
San Francisco, Calif. (Local 24)

CRACKERS

Keebler Town House, Club, Zesta
Cincinnati, Ohio (Local 253)

Dare Foods: Grainsfirst, Vinta, Care Crisps, Breton, Vivant
Kitchner, Ontario (Local 264)

Enjoy a B

UNION-

From chips, pies and cookies to ice cream cones, hot dog and hamburger buns and soda, products are essential ingredients for summer

The products listed on these pages are In-North America products produced by This list is not inclusive of every BCTGM (there is not enough space to list them work for hundreds of North America's manufacturing companies producing th goods. **Always look for the BCTGM U**

BAKED BEANS

Burnham and Morill (B&M)
Portland, Maine (Local 334)

CTGM Made Summer

made by BCTGM members
time fun!

just some of the BCTGM-Made-
y hardworking union members.
local or union-made product
all!). BCTGM members
most renowned food
ousands of quality
Union Label!

SODA POP

Canada Dry, 7-UP, A&W Root Beer, Orange Crush, RC Cola
Denver, Colo. (Local 26)

PASTA

Ebro Puleva
Fresno, Calif. (Local 85)

Dakota Growers Pasta Co.
New Hope, Minn. (Local 22)

Ronzoni Foods Canada (New World Pasta)
Montreal, Quebec (Local 227)

SWEET GOODS

Safeway In-Store Bakeries
Seattle, Wash. (Local 9)
San Francisco, Calif. (Local 24)
Sacramento, Calif. (Local 85)
Portland, Ore. (Local 114)
Washington, D.C. (Local 118)
Oakland, Calif. (Local 125)

Hostess Brands, LLC: Ding Dongs, Twinkies, SnoBalls
*Only Hostess Brands sweet cake products from Indianapolis, Ind. (Local 1) and Columbus, Ga. (Local 42) bakeries.

Keebler Cookies: Soft Batch, Rainbow Chips
Cincinnati, Ohio (Local 253)

Voortman Bakery: All Voortman brand cookies
Burlington, Ontario (Local 264)

Vachon: Jos Louis, Passion Flakie, Granny's Tarts, Pique, Swiss Rolls
Ste-Marie de Beauce, Quebec (Local 480)

Entenmann's cookies, cakes and pastries

YOGURT & KEFIR

Dannon Yogurt
Minster, Ohio (Local 19)
West Jordan, UT (Local 401)

Lifeway Kefir products
Chicago, Ill. (Local 1)

SERVICE WITH A SMILE: Bill Andre

"I come from a union family and unionism is in my blood. I am not just a union member – but I live a union life, through and through. It is who I am," says Bill Andre, Local 116 (Auburn, N.Y.) Business Agent/Financial Secretary.

When he was 17 years old, Andre got his first union job at the Auburn Hospital and became a proud member of AFSCME 3124. In 2001, an ad in the local newspaper for a job at the Northeast Foods bakery intrigued him, so he went down to the plant to apply and was hired that same day.

"This is back in the day when you could apply and be hired on the spot. As they say, the rest is history," he notes.

The plant was later acquired by George Weston and then in 2009 by BIMBO Bakeries

Alan Shaffer, Bulk Wrapper Operator

Billy Brewer, Tray Wash Operator

Bob Ferrera, Maintenance

Gary Hadden moves pans.

Intl. Rep. Lisa Gregory (left) and L. 116 Bus. Agt/Fin. Secy. Bill Andre (right).

Maintains Roots to BCTGM Local 116

USA, which it remains to this day. Local 116 members at the facility produce all the buns and rolls used by Burger King restaurants.

Andre worked many jobs in the bakery but held the position of divider operator the longest. In 2010, he became the business agent for Local 116 and proudly represents workers at the BIMBO facility as well as bakers at the Wegmans wholesale bakery in Rochester, N.Y.

Andre serves his membership with the same union dedication and hard work he has maintained his entire life. Walking through the union bakeries, Andre greets each worker by his or her first name.

Pictured here are the proud union brothers and sisters of Local 116 at the Auburn BIMBO bakery where Andre launched his BCTGM career.

Bill Andre, L. 116 Bus. Agt./Fin. Secy. outside the Auburn BIMBO bakery.

Bill Arnold, Bulk Wrapper Operator

Gene Richardson, Dock Loader

Kirk Lawler, Divider Operator

BCTGM Represents CHEMICAL WORKERS in Memphis, Tennessee

Two BCTGM local unions represent workers at several chemical companies all located within a sprawling 400-acre industrial complex in a remote corner of Shelby County, Tennessee.

Local 407G (Memphis, Tenn.) members at Plaskolite manufacture continuous cast acrylic sheet used for spas and baths, as well as clear museum and frame grade acrylic sheet. According to Local 407G President Terry Howard, the plant ramped up production throughout the pandemic to provide acrylic sheets to retail stores, schools, restaurants and other public spaces.

Local 407G also represents members at Mitsubishi Chemical. The company is the world's largest producer of Methacrylates – the building block of all acrylics. The union made product is used for everything from protective screens to signage, paints and coatings to fittings and furniture, baths to automotive parts and more.

Howard has worked at the massive complex since 1975 when it was owned by DuPont. He has been an officer of Local 407G since 1993.

BCTGM Local 352G represents 100 workers at Chemours Memphis. The facility was established in 1952 and produces sodium cyanide, an essential element in gold and silver extraction. Sodium cyanide is not cyanide, although it is part of the industrial compound. It has been used for decades and is allowed and regulated by state and federal agencies around the world.

Local 407G members outside the massive complex in Shelby County, Tennessee. From left to right is, Plaskolite workers Mike Montgomery (Warehouse), Robert Rainer (Lab Analyst), Joseph Blurton (Operator), Mitsubishi Chemical workers L. 407G Pres. Terry Howard (Electrical & Instrument Technician), Kyle Lewis (Asst. Operator), Kevin Howard (Electrical & Instrument Technician) and Jimmy Jordan (Mechanical Technician).

Local 352G President Emile Sigee is a Powerhouse Steam Engineer at the Chemours facility. The local union also represents workers at the Arkema and Lanxess factories on the complex.

Union workers at the Chemours plant make solid cyanide bricks as well as the liquid cyanide that is used to make the bricks. Local 352G President Emile Sigee, a powerhouse steam engineer, has worked at the facility for 18 years. According to Sigee, union workers at the plant wear highly protective suits to keep them safe in the production process.

Local 352G members also represent the workers at the Lanxess facility. Workers there produce Oxone monopersulfate, a compound used in a variety of industrial and consumer applications like Oxy Clean, powder bleach cleaners as well as a chlorine-free shock oxidizer in swimming pools and spas. The product is also used in the electronics industry and for cleaning dentures.

Also represented by Local 352G are workers at the Arkema Memphis plant where they produce hydrogen peroxide. The plant, built in 1953, is situated on 12 acres on the industrial complex and was originally owned by DuPont.

Local 407G members outside the Shelby County, Tenn. industrial complex.

Announcing the 2021 Winners of the *David B. Durkee Memorial Scholarship*

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The BCTGM International Union awards five scholarship prizes to members, or children of members, each year worth $5,000. The program is a tribute to the legacy of President Durkee and the high value he placed on learning and education.

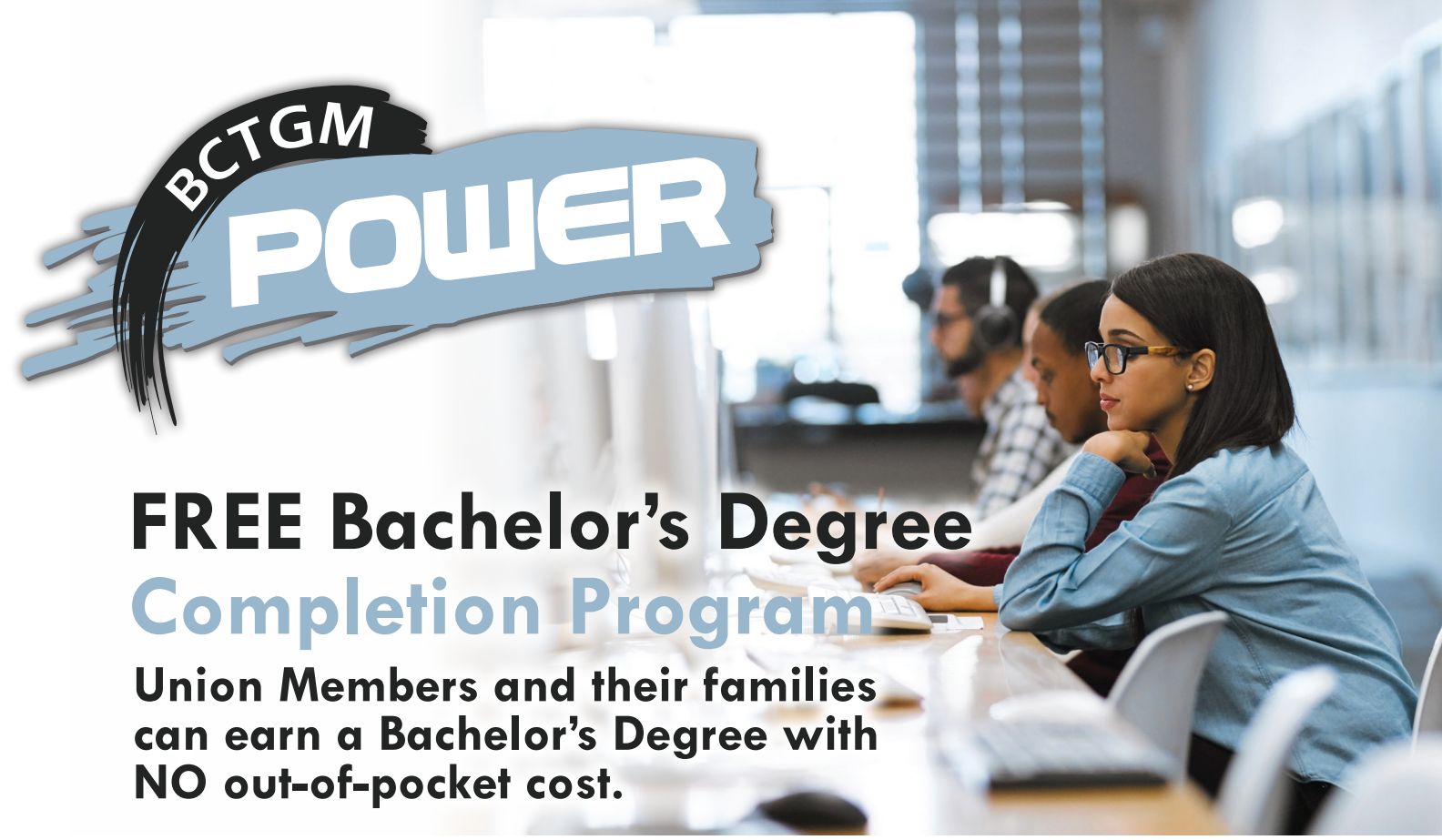
Gabriel Silva, son of Local 69 (Port Chester, N.Y.) member Anthony Silva, who is employed at the Bimbo Bakeries USA facility in Greenwich, Connecticut. Gabriel will attend Colgate University.

Kyla Pham, daughter of Local 374G (Lancaster, Pa.) member Chieu Pham, who is employed at Kellogg Company in Lancaster. Kyla will attend Bucknell University.

Summer Clair, daughter of Local 403 (Kingston, Ontario) member Gerard Clair, who works for George Weston Limited in Kingston. Summer will attend Algonquin College.

Paulo Vidales, son of Local 218 (Topeka, Kansas) member Eugenio Vidales, who is employed at Frito-Lay. Paulo will attend the University of Notre Dame.

Katelyn Prochnow, daughter of Local 167G (Grand Forks, N.D.) member Doug Prochnow, who is employed by Ceres Global Ag. Corp. Katelyn will attend the College of St. Scholastica.



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$0

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Tell Your U.S. Senators:

PASS THE PRO ACT

BAKERY CONFECTIONERY BCTGM UNION MADE TOBACCO WORKERS & GRAIN MILLERS AFL-CIO CLC

The **Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act** passed the House on March 9 with bipartisan support. **The Senate is the final obstacle.**

The PRO Act would dramatically grow workers' power on the job and at the bargaining table by expanding union membership, reforming decades-old labor laws, banning so-called "right-to-work" laws and ending employer intimidation and interference in union organizing drives.

Keep the calls coming! Make your voice heard!

Tell your Senator to PASS THE PRO ACT NOW!

866-832-1560